


# Assistive Technology Tools Reading



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Struggling readers may have problems: With individual words, sentences, and/or paragraphs and with understanding what they read. This difficulty stems from an inability to decode words (associate sounds with letters), track words and sentences on a page, comprehend the written information, keep thoughts and images organized, and/or generalize the information to previous knowledge. This deficit may stem from problems with visual processing or auditory processing.


<http://www.gatfl.org/ldguide/read.htm>



# Strategies to Consider

- Pre teach a list of vocabulary words that are matched with pictures.
- Read the story aloud first while the student follows along.
- Increase fluency by having students reread the story at least five times.
- Improve comprehension by asking only ONE question per reading.
- For more ideas visit:

<http://www.cpt.fsu.edu/ese/in/acom/needs/nslist.html>



In order to use assistive technology effectively you must understand where the deficiency lies. It is important to match the student's need with the tool. The following slides give examples of possible lite tech, hardware and software solutions.



# Reading Tools

- Highlighter tape
- Reading guides
- Adapted ruler
- Color filters
- Magnifier
- Reading stand
- Electronic dictionaries
- Picture /symbol text match
- Scan and read software
- Format text in Word documents
- Ebooks
- Books on tape
- Software



# Highlighter Tape

- Highlighter tape can be used to highlight directions, identify main ideas or vocabulary words, or to separate questions from a series of answers.
- **Cost \$2.00 a roll**



# Reading Guides

- Reading guides can help the student track and focus on words while reading.
- **Cost \$ 9.00 set of 5**



# Adapted ruler

- An adapted ruler will help a student with poor hand or finger dexterity to keep their place while reading. The ruler may be easier to use than a reading guide for some students to manage
- **Cost \$1.00**





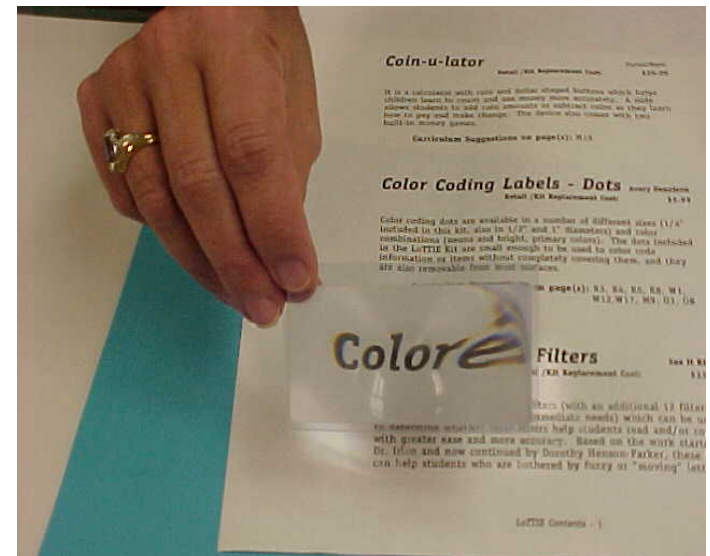
# Color Filters

- Colored filters may help a student with perceptually based reading problems overcome print or background distortion. May relieve some blurry letters or eye strain.
- **Cost \$25 for See It Right Demo Kit**



# Magnifier

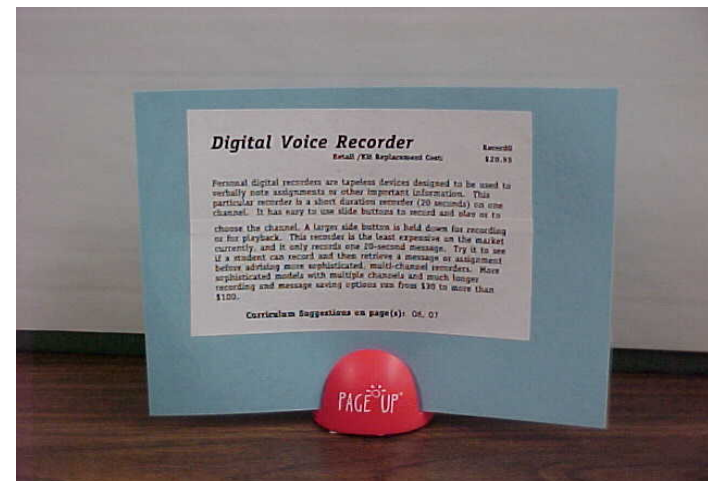
- A magnifier will enlarge images of letters, words, maps, and drawings. May help a student focus and track as they read.
- **Cost \$1.95**



# Reading Stand

- Reading Stands or Page Ups provides students with the ability to read and or copy from a different orientation.

- **Cost \$6.95**



# Portabook



- A Portabook is a compact lightweight bookstand that opens to five different angles to change the orientation of a book. It can hold books open & store flat for easy carrying.

**Cost \$19.95**

- Alternative - Use binders of different widths to create different angles.



# Electronic Dictionary

- Electronic dictionaries provide instant definitions that can be read to the student.
- Cost: Franklin Children's Dictionary \$49.95







# Format Text Appearance

- Change the font to Verdana or Century Gothic.
- Increase the font size (14 or 16).
- Double space between the lines.
- Change the background and/or text color.
- Use clipart to define new vocabulary.
- Use the replace feature to add more space between words.



# Format Text Appearance

- Bold or use the highlighter tool to draw attention to important points, vocabulary words or direction.
  - Use footnotes to clarify points, leave further directions, or ask a comprehension question.
  - Insert “Callouts” to leave reminders, or ask questions.
  - Use the outline feature to create study guides.
- \* See the Wonders of Word 2007 Guide in the Supplemental Resource section for more ideas!

dog



# Match Picture and Text

- Match a picture with the word to introduce new vocabulary.
  - Boardmaker software
  - Writing with Symbols
  - Pix Writer
  - Clipart in word processing
- [www.symbolworld.org/eLive](http://www.symbolworld.org/eLive) (free monthly magazine for symbol readers).

\* *you will need to print a copy of a story or use the online version in order to answer question 2*



# Software for Symbol Text

- Boardmaker

- <http://www.donjohnston.com/>

- Writing with Symbols

- [www.mayer-johnson.com](http://www.mayer-johnson.com)

- Clicker Five

- [www.cricksoft.com](http://www.cricksoft.com)

- Pix Writer

- [www.slatersoftware.com](http://www.slatersoftware.com)



# Text to Speech

- Students with good auditory comprehension but poor decoding skills may benefit from programs that will read as they listen.
  - [www.naturalreaders.com](http://www.naturalreaders.com) (free)
  - <http://www.readplease.com/> (free)
  - Read, Write Gold ([www.texthelp.com](http://www.texthelp.com) )
  - Kurzweil ([www.kurzweiledu.com](http://www.kurzweiledu.com) )
  - Wynn ([www.freedomscientific.com](http://www.freedomscientific.com))
  - Premier Literacy([www.readingmadeez.com](http://www.readingmadeez.com))





# Use Digitized Text

- For secondary students copy and paste classics from these websites, add to text to speech and have the classics come alive.
  - [www.readprint.com](http://www.readprint.com)
  - [www.gutenberg.org](http://www.gutenberg.org)



# Online Stories and Ebooks

- Use online books and resources that will help students with auditory comprehension and activities.
  - <http://www.storyplace.org/>
  - <http://www.storylineonline.net/>
  - <http://www.kizclub.com>
  - [www.edtech-associates.com/ebooks](http://www.edtech-associates.com/ebooks)
  - [www.tumblebooks.com](http://www.tumblebooks.com) (Check with your media specialist for password).



# Audio Text

Some students may qualify for the following services that will supply them with auditory textbooks or leisure books.

- National Instructional Materials Accessibility Standard (NIMAS).
  - <http://nimas.cast.org/>
- Recording for the Blind & Dyslexic
  - <http://www.rfbd.org/>
- Bookshare
  - [www.bookshare.org/](http://www.bookshare.org/)



# Software

These are just a few commercially available titles:

- Cloze Pro- Crick- Students fill in gaps in sentence.
  - [www.cricksoftware.com](http://www.cricksoftware.com) \$149
- Start to Finish 3 levels of support CD, paper books, audio cassette
  - [www.donjohnston.com](http://www.donjohnston.com) \$18.95-\$79.95
- Phonics Companion –Practices the 44 phonemes
  - [www.teamvistech.com](http://www.teamvistech.com) \$59.95
- Soliloquy – develops fluency
  - [www.soliloquylearning.com/](http://www.soliloquylearning.com/)



# More Web Site References

- <http://www.cpt.fsu.edu/ese/in/acom/needs/nslist.html>
- <http://www.paec.org/fdlrstech/reading.html>
- <http://www.gatfl.org/ldguide/read.htm>
- <http://www.ldonline.org/>
- [www.onionmountaintech.com](http://www.onionmountaintech.com)